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Ms. Mary Bender  
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
2301 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408  
Re. Doc. No. 06-2452

Pippa S Calland  
11 Dogwood Drive  
Newville PA 17241

February 1, 2007

Dear Ms. Bender,

I am writing this letter because I am incredulous about many of the amendments that are under proposal to the Pennsylvania Dog Law regulations. Although I am all for reform of the so-called ' puppy mills, " I fail to see how the changes you are seeking will impact them at all. Rather the proposed changes in the dog law will instead take aim at the smaller scale hobby breeders and force them out of existence - something that would be very much to the detriment of the citizens of Pennsylvania.

I began looking for my first dog this past year and conducted a national search for just the right breeder. Prepared to travel thousands of miles to find a puppy, I was understandably thrilled to, instead, find one right here in Pennsylvania.

Having never visited a dog breeder or a kennel before, I had no idea what to expect. But what I found would have surpassed any expectations anyone could have had. A meticulously kept kennel with TWO ACRES of grassy meadow for the dogs to run in PLUS a fenced dog yard for dogs that have house privileges- definitely a doggie wonderland!

The dog that I ultimately selected (and it became dog (s) because I went back for another one the next month!) had been living in the kennel but were then brought inside for two weeks of finishing school before they came home. The breeder was conscientious enough to want to ensure her dogs had smooth transitions into my home-and for that, I will be eternally grateful to her.

The breeder lavished care on building her facilities and on the inception and the care of her dogs -and it very much shows in the beautiful, healthy and well mannered Labrador retrievers she produces. Yet, paradoxically, many of the wonderful qualities that set this breeder apart from big commercial operations are exactly what the legislature is going after and seeking to eradicate, in a rather nonsensical manner.

In looking at my own experiences in dealing with a dog breeder in Pennsylvania, I am aghast that the Pennsylvania legislature would want to put reputable small breeders out of business in the state of Pennsylvania in order to mandate against the puppy mills. To me, it seems like throwing out the baby with the bath water. Why legislate against things like grass in dogs exercise yards and whelping puppies/-rearing dogs in the house that, generally speaking, only work in favor of producing healthy, happy and well socialized dogs. Why not instead focus on enforcing current existing regulations- and relying on the discretion of the local dog wardens to enforce the law on a case-by-case, kennel by kennel basis?

I humbly ask you to please take these matters under more forthright consideration.

Sincerely Yours,

Pippa S Calland



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